

NEWS MEDIA CONTACTS:

Misty Benjamin, 208-351.9900, [misty.benjamin@inl.gov](mailto:misty.benjamin@inl.gov)

Julie Ulrich, 208-520-1139, [julie.ulrich@inl.gov](mailto:julie.ulrich@inl.gov)

**Teachers encouraged to apply for science education grants**

IDAHO FALLS -- Applications are currently being accepted for two grants in support of excellence and innovation in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education. Idaho National Laboratory's Regional STEM Mini Grants and an Idaho National Laboratory Extreme Classroom Makeover Grant are open until Dec. 20, 2014.

Funding for the grants comes from Battelle Energy Alliance, which operates INL for the U.S. Department of Energy.

The 2015 INL Regional STEM Mini Grants will provide funds to enhance public and private elementary, middle school and high school programs. Northwestern teachers can apply for up to \$500 to fund technology or lab equipment, material for special projects, or professional development.

The INL Extreme Classroom Makeover Grant will provide funding to an Idaho teacher or school to transform a classroom into a 21st-century STEM learning environment. The grant award for \$5000 is available to support classroom instructional resources, materials and laboratory equipment used to integrate STEM concepts across all disciplines.

Grant applications are available at <http://www.inl.gov/k-12/>. Completed applications must be received by Dec. 20, 2014.

A panel of judges will evaluate the applications based on specific criteria. Teachers are required to provide information on how learning objectives and curriculum concepts will be enhanced and how the project or program will improve student interest and achievement. Grant recipients will be announced in February 2015.

Over the past decade, INL has contributed nearly \$4 million to advance STEM education.

INL is one of the DOE's 10 multiprogram national laboratories. The laboratory performs work in each of DOE's strategic goal areas: energy, national security, science and environment. INL is the nation's leading center for nuclear energy research and development. Day-to-day management and operation of the laboratory is the responsibility of Battelle Energy Alliance.

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